AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0021] and [0023] of the specification as indicated below.

[0021] Embodiments of the present invention provide a driver 100 configured to reduce the CPU cycles required to write data to a network. The driver 100 is configured to receive a write call from an application through a socket 101, as shown in the embodiment in FIG. 2. Any application may make use of the driver 100. Preferred applications in embodiments of the invention include multimedia applications such as streaming media (audio, video, games, etc.). Accordingly, applications broadcasting live or prerecorded video or audio, such as ~~RealNetworks~~REALNETWORKS~~.RTM~~™. broadcasters and the like, may be used. Audio on demand applications may utilize driver 100, such as ~~RealPlayer~~REALPLAYER~~.RTM.~~™, ~~NetShow~~NETSHOW~~.RTM.~~™, and Inter Wave. Video on demand applications may utilize driver 100, such as ~~RealPlayer~~REALPLAYER~~.RTM.~~™ and the like. Internet telephony applications may utilize the driver 100, in some embodiments. Videoconferencing applications, such as ~~CU-SeeMe~~CU-SEEMER~~RTM.~~™, may also utilize the driver 100, in some embodiments.

[0023] The driver 100 is preferably implemented in software. In accordance with embodiments of the invention, substantially any programming language may be used to implement the driver 100. In accordance with embodiments of the invention, the driver 100 is implemented as a module of an operating system. The driver 100 may be a module of any known operating systems, including for example, any version of the ~~Microsoft Windows~~MICROSOFT WINDOWS™ operating system (including but not limited to the ~~Microsoft~~MICROSOFT™ Longhorn operating system), Linux, UNIX, ~~Macintosh~~MACINSTOSH™ operating systems, and the like. In other embodiments, the driver 100 may be implemented as hardware, firmware, software, or any combination thereof.